Breach of contract by Bofors

1695. SHRI P. K. KUNJACHEN:
SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any efforts to book the Howitzer company of Sweden through Government of Sweeden was made considering volumes of evidence available against the company for breach of contract; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) and (b) It has already been decided that future contracts for supply of weapons and weapon systems will not be entered into with Bofors. Further necessary action will be taken in the light of the findings of the investigations, which are in hand.

Sixth account in Swiss Bank concerning the Bofors gun deal

1696. SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the Sixth Account in the Swiss Bank which has been detected during the investigation into the Bofors gun deal; and

(b) how much amount was slashed away therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) and (b) The Swiss authorities have frozen six Swiss Bank Accounts on 26-1-1990. A Letter Rogatory has been issued to the Swiss authorities on 9-2-1990. Further investigations are in progress.

Frozen bank accounts

1697. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the authorised signatories of the five frozen bank accounts involved in the alleged pay-offs in the Bofors gun deal; and

(b) what is the identification of Sixth Swiss Bank account which has been frozen in this connection?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) and (b) The matter is under the investigation of the concerned agencies in India and Switzerland. Details will be available on its conclusion.

Growth of substandard Degree Colleges

1698. SHRI MOSTAFA BIN QUASEM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to check the growth of substandard Degree Colleges floated by private management; and

(b) the number of such colleges in the country where teachers do not get the UGC pay scales or do not enjoy any service security?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M. G. K. MENON): (a) The agencies involved in the establishment of new colleges are State Governments universities and in some cases private managements. A college can be established only after the university concerned agree to grant affiliation to it. It is, therefore, only the university and the State Government concerned which can ensure that no college is apended without having the basic minimum infrastructure. The University Grants Commission, however, has issued guidelines to the State Governments/universities indicating the terms and conditions which should be fulfilled before granting affiliation to a college.

(b) Almost all States have now accepted the revised scales of pay of UGC

and are implementing them, in two States viz. Bihar and Sikkim, adoption of UGC scales is under consideration of the concerned State Government. Government or UGC do not have any other information regarding colleges where UGC scales have not been granted.

Breast milk substitutes

1699. **DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI:** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is Government's stand about the WHO|UNICEF Code against advertising breast milk substitutes; and

(b) what steps have been taken against the recent press publicity promoting Amul Milk Spray Infant Food as a substitute to breast milk?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M. G. K. MENON): (a) and (b) Government of India adopted the Indian National Code for Protection and Promotion of Breast-Feeding on 19-12-1983 which is based on the WHO/UNICEF Code. According to Article 5.1 of the Indian National Code for Protection and Promotion of Breast-Feeding, there shall be no advertising of breast milk substitutes. In order to give effect to the principles of the Code through legislation, the Infant Milk Foods and Feeding Bottles (Regulation of Protection, Supply and Distribution) Bill 1986 was introduced and passed by the Rajya Sabha. The Bill could not however come up for consideration in the Lok Sabha. On the dissolution of the VIIIth Lok Sabha, the above Bill stands lapsed. In the absence of legislation, no steps could be taken against press publicity of Amul Milk Spray Infant Food as a breast milk substitute.

Special education for girls

1700. SHRI M. VINCENT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state whether Government propose to introduce any scheme to give special education for girls child to help them to attain equality, individuality and dignity when they become major and to eradicate the discrimination against them in the growing society.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M. G. K. MENON): Keeping in view the policy that education should serve the cause of women's equality the national Council of Educatiinal Research and Training (NCERT) has initiated and implemented various programmes such as evaluation of textbooks and supplementary readers prescribed at different stages of school education with a view to eliminating sexist bias therein.

Other measures for promoting the education of girls include recruitment of more women teachers for primary schools; incentive schemes like distribution of free textbooks and free uniforms and attendance scholarships; provisions of Central assistance to the tune of 90 per cent for running non-formal education centres for girls in 10 States and Union Territories where the enrolment ratio of children at the elementary stage is much below the national average.

Education upto Class VIII is free for girls in all government, local body and aided schools in the country and upto Class X in most of the States/Union Territories. The Central Government have been implementing a scheme during the Seventh Five Year Plan under which the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations have been compensated on account of exemption to girls from tuition fee in classes IX to XII.